



# THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

(in the mail packets of the 5th, 15th and 25th of the month.)

A. J. LAMOURFEN, Editor and Proprietor.

Contains a summary of news and review of Brazilian affairs, a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the commercial report and price current of the market, tables of stock quotations and sales, a table of freights and charters, a summary of the daily coffee reports from the Associação Commercial, and all other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian trade.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, DECEMBER 15th, 1888.

In view of the increasing pressure on the columns of this paper, owing to an extension of the commercial reports and better facilities for obtaining information upon Brazilian affairs, and also in view of the changes in steamship sailings which render our trimonthly packet dates unserviceable, we shall publish "The Rio News" once a week, on Mondays, after the opening of the new year. This arrangement will enable us to give complete summaries of the market for each week, which will perhaps be specially advantageous for statistical purposes. The form, make-up, subscription and advertising rates will remain unchanged, but as considerable additional expense will be incurred by this change the issue will be reduced to six pages in case the anticipated increase in advertisements and subscriptions does not cover the outlay. It will be found that the new arrangement will render the "News" more valuable for announcements and other transient advertisements, and we trust our friends will kindly use all proper means to aid us in this direction.

The steadily increasing mortality in the city makes it again necessary to call attention to the necessity of employing more effective efforts for keeping the streets, habitations and grounds in a proper sanitary condition. Naturally the hot season brings with it more sickness and develops new sources of contagion on every side, but as this is the rule the proper sanitary measures ought always to be ready for use. Instead of this, nothing effective is ever done until the epidemic actually gains a foothold, and then it is too late. As we have so often repeated, while a few main thoroughfares are kept clean and in good repair, a great part of the city is disgracefully dirty and neglected. The sanitary inspectors, as a rule, are young men without experience and with but little knowledge of the subject. They are not only ignorant, but they are negligent and indifferent, unless some personal caprice leads them into a spasm of official activity. The sanitary inspection of this city, where so great a loss of life and property has resulted from epidemics, is anything but creditable. In matters of private concern, such as the exaction of "sample" bottles of wine from every importation, the board of health is certainly active enough, but in matters of public concern, such as the cleaning of streets, the removal of noxious industries and establishments, the enforcement of sanitary rules in crowded quarters, etc., this same board is notoriously negligent. At the present time there is certainly an alarming increase in fevers throughout this city and Niteroi,

and the indications are that we shall have serious trouble with yellow fever if prompt measures are not soon taken to improve our sanitary condition. We have been having a long term of hot weather, the water supply has been scarce, and the rains which we have had, have served more to increase the oppressiveness of the temperature than to cleanse the streets and drains. Money enough is spent to assure for us a better sanitary service, but it generally spent in directions which result in the least amount of good for the public. We are now having the River Plate quarantines again working against us, and trade and travel will be diverted from this port until nature again brings us the remedy. In all these years of costly experience, the authorities ought certainly to have discovered some way to escape these evils.

The recent election of a president of the Banco do Brazil can not fail to be a matter of sincere regret to those who have the best interests of the country at heart. As the first and most influential bank of the country, the debtor of the Treasury to a large amount, the principal protector and creditor of a large body of planters in three neighboring provinces through loans on agricultural property, and the actual owner of a large number of forfeited estates, the Banco do Brazil must necessarily play an important part in directing and shaping the destinies of this empire. We do not raise any question of a personal character, but it must be clear to thoughtful, dispassionate men that the Barão de Cotepe is not the man to direct such an institution. A shrewd, unscrupulous politician with no experience whatever in banking, a conservative of the most extreme, reactionary type, the bitterest enemy of emancipation and the most outspoken advocate of indemnification, an advocate of the importation of Chinese labor, the avowed enemy of liberal banking laws, general naturalization, religious freedom, liberal land laws, civil marriage, local self-government—in fact, of almost every liberal, progressive measure which has been brought before the country, he is certainly not the man to occupy so important a position. The president of the Banco do Brazil is, or should be, a recognized authority in private financial circles and the confidential adviser of the minister of finance. His influence should be felt on the side of every reform measure and in favor of every movement tending to populate and enrich the country. He should not be the friend and protector of a favored, reactionary class, for that is antagonistic to the general interests of the people. He ought to favor the division of the large estates, especially those now held by the bank, for that will result in a denser population, more landed proprietors, better cultivation, an increased production and the conversion of the estates now held by the bank into ready cash. Like all great financiers, he should be the friend of the people and should possess their fullest confidence. Those who are familiar with the public life of the Barão de Cotepe need not be told that he fails utterly to meet these requirements. As the shareholders of the bank are fully conversant with his record and prejudices, his election to this important position at this time must be accepted as an expression of their hostility to the present cabinet, and to the liberal measures which it is known to favor.

For some time past the residents of the *quartirão* in which this office is located, have been trying to effect the closing of a tobacco factory on Rua da Assembleia on account of its being prejudicial to the health of the neighborhood. They have appealed to the municipal council, as the

industry in thickly-settled localities is prohibited by law and is without license, but have been referred to the board of health for an opinion as to its healthfulness. The board of health, which has nothing to do with questions of license, and being composed of thoroughly seasoned smokers, gives a report largely favorable to the factory. The protest is then taken to the minister of empire, where it enters upon the usual journey through a labyrinth of red-tape formalities and constitutional inertia. In the meantime the factory goes on poisoning the atmosphere of a densely populated neighborhood, to the great discomfort of many and to the prejudice of not a few. Why there should be any delays in this matter, no one can understand. To be sure, municipal laws and regulations are not made for impartial observance; they are generally made for the personal benefit of certain parties, and for the annoyance and prejudice of others. When this regulation against noxious industries within city limits was adopted, it is not improbable that the aldermen had a definite personal object in view. Aldermen and personal controversies, however, are happily not permanent, unchanging factors in our existence, and we frequently find, therefore, that the object of yesterday's aldermanic solicitude is to-day a matter of supreme indifference. So it appears to be in this case. An industry which infects a whole neighborhood with its poisonous gases, is permitted to continue in operation without even a restriction. The people complain against the abuse, and then they are sent here, there and everywhere for the relief which is never found. It is not merely a shame and disgrace to the authorities who permit so scandalous an abuse, but it is a humiliating affront to the people themselves. No one wishes to cause this manufacturer any loss and annoyance, but when he deliberately violates a by-law by establishing a prohibited industry in the city and then continues it in spite of appeal and protest from those who are suffering from its noxious gases and insufferable stenches, he certainly can not complain if he is compelled to move it to a less thickly settled neighborhood. Everyone is supposed to have a certain amount of personal rights and privileges, and among these certainly is that of being protected against unnecessary discomfort and injury by the act of others. No one has a right to fill a neighborhood with smoke and poisonous gases and thus cause sickness and annoyance to others. The authorities will certainly do no more than their clear duty if they at once suppress this nuisance.

There is one consolation left to us after reading an article on our inconsistency, pessimism and other short-comings in *Money* of the 14th ult.—the editor of that journal is going to "keep a watchful eye open, and tender a word of caution" to his readers whenever necessary. An "eye" that can see three thousand miles, and a "word" that can keep British investors out of trouble, are certainly very important factors in the administration of a financial journal, but when backed by a judgment which can not discriminate between a compliment and a deduction, or between an editorial opinion and an effort to ridicule the absurd fears of others, they are perhaps not always infallible. We are not informed why our London colleague felt impelled to go spearing after windmills; perhaps if his "multitudinous interests" had given him time to think a little he would not have done it. If, now, he will oblige us by reading our articles again, he will find that complimenting Brazilians on the success of the national and São Paulo loans and on the sale of certain railways (one has since ignominiously failed), is not at all contradictory to the

assertion that they promise "to end in results highly unsatisfactory to all parties concerned." We took pains to explain that São Paulo offers good security, but that the danger lies in the stimulus to other provinces to make loans on less or no security. We happen to be on the spot and are in a position to correctly estimate occurrences and probabilities—and the course of events have fully justified our conclusions. The São Paulo loan, whose success we considered worthy of a compliment, has brought out no less than five provinces after similar foreign loans, viz.: Minas Geraes, Rio de Janeiro, Bahia, Pernambuco and Rio Grande do Sul. Of course if *Money* keeps his "watchful eye" open, no harm may result; but then there are the chances that the British investor may be caught when *Money* is napping, just as he was on the Minas Central, Natal and Nova Cruz, D. Thereza Christina and other Brazilian railways. Then as to the labor question, perhaps *Money* never realized that we might have advocated the abolition of slavery on grounds radically distinct from those criticised. We advocated abolition because it was just and right, and because slavery is an evil and an incubus upon modern civilization. We did not believe that any great prejudice would result from abolition, but this, of course, depends quite as much on the master as upon the slave. That the results of emancipation have not been uniformly good is not the fault of those who favored abolition, nor altogether of those who were benefited by it, but largely of those who subsequently placed every obstacle in the way of the quiet transformation of labor, who begged for indemnification and threatened the government with a "republic" if their demands were not granted. Our reproduction of the complaints, threats and harrowing pictures of the disastrous consequences of abolition which these malcontents drew, has unhappily been accepted by *Money* as an expression of our own opinions on the question. It is not agreeable to be credited with opinions which we do not hold, but the whole tenor of *Money's* article compels us to believe that an attempt to correct the error would be fruitless. We can furnish the facts for *Money's* appreciation, but we can not undertake to supply him with anything further. Of one thing, however, our watchful-eyed colleague may be assured—we shall never knowingly lead a confiding investor into a bad or uncertain investment in this country. We may not have been in Coventry, nor have such a burden of "multitudinous interests" pressing upon us, but we do know something about Brazil, its institutions and prospects, and we shall continue our efforts to enlighten our watchful contemporary to the best of our limited ability.

The final scene in the recent "military question" suggests the inquiry: Is this a civil, or a military government? The pusillanimous surrender of the cabinet to the exactions of a few military officers certainly warrants the belief that we are no longer under civil authority. The general officers of the army, actuated by the false and pernicious idea that they must sustain their comrades whether right or wrong, exacted the humiliation of the São Paulo chief of police by a dishonorable dismissal, notwithstanding the fact that the charges against him had not been investigated and proved, and that the mercantile classes of that city had protested against his dismissal. It is known that the sentiment of the cabinet was against such an act, although the minister of war had compromised himself in its favor. To avoid this injustice and yet meet the exigencies of the adjutant-general and his subordinates, a simple decree of removal was issued on the 1st instant.

This, however, did not satisfy the officers at all, and the adjutant-general at once sent in his resignation, the military party and republicans began to look belligerent, and then the cabinet got scared and surrendered. The next day a correction appeared stating that the São Paulo chief of police had been dismissed for cause. We have no words strong enough to express our opinion of this act. It was disgraceful and pusillanimous in the highest degree. The São Paulo difficulty sprung from military lawlessness, and the controversy over a subsequent question of mere formality and courtesy sprung largely from the conceit of a lot of subordinate officers who permitted themselves to be made the tools of a party of republican agitators. The military authorities in Rio then took their resolutions on *ex parte* reports and without any investigation whatever, and their ultimatum was that a civil police authority, who enjoyed the confidence of the people of São Paulo, must be dismissed in disgrace. And the ministers, the representatives of the people and the confidential advisers of the crown, had not the courage to resist. The civil authority, the people, the tax-payers, the wealth and prosperity of the country, all these must perforce submit to this shameful humiliation and permit an insignificant number of men, who belong to a class which produces nothing, and practically protects nothing, to ride rough shod over them. If the military classes were interested in protecting the interests of the country, in maintaining law and order, in encouraging progress, and in elevating the social and political status of the people, then there might be some reasonable excuse for these interferences, but they are concerned in nothing of the kind. Now, as heretofore, they are interested only in their own selfish interests and privileges. Their patriotism never rises above their *brios*, the pride of privilege and exclusiveness. And the people, ignorant and unorganized, are compelled to submit! The final result of such a system is certainly not hidden.

The only effective remedy for this dangerous and abnormal state of affairs is the complete separation of military and civil authority, and the suppression of all special privileges heretofore enjoyed by military officers. The civil authorities alone ought to be charged with the execution of the law and the maintenance of order. The laws are enacted for civil purposes alone, and the military authority ought to have nothing whatever to do with their execution except in case of revolution. The patrolling of the streets and the guarding of public edifices by military squads is unnecessary and dangerous. The quartering of regular troops in the city and the license given to officers and soldiers to spend their time in the streets, should also be corrected. Much of the disorder and crime in this city, as in every other city of the empire, springs from military lawlessness. Loafing in the public streets is not only subversive of discipline, but it gives occasion for intrigues and quarrels which invariably end in trouble. Add to this the privileges enjoyed by military officers such as the right to arrest civilians and even civilian officials in the exercise of their duties, and exemption from arrest themselves, and we have an element of disorder in society which ought not to be permitted for a moment. In those countries where civil government has reached its highest development, a military officer enjoys no such privileges. Off duty, he is treated like any other citizen and may be arrested for crime or disorder just like any one else. Such a squabble as that growing out of the arrest of a disorderly naval officer some time ago could never happen.

In addition to this the arm of civil authority should be strengthened by rendering judges and superior police officials non-removable except for cause, which must be determined by judicial inquiry. The possibility of forcing a weak cabinet to dismiss a civil official on demand of a clique of military officers should be provided against in every way possible. It would be better, perhaps, if the police administration of every province and city should be entrusted to men chosen by the people of each locality, either by the election of the superior officials, or by their appointment by provincial presidents who have been elected by the people. It would require no great change in the political system of the country to provide for this, and the possibilities of interference in local affairs by central military cabals would then be rendered impossible. Whether this be done, or not, however, let us have an end of military barracks, guards and patrols in the cities, and let us have every military officer reduced to the level of the people who feed and clothe him.

## PROVINCIAL NOTES

- S. Paulo is going to give \$10,000 for the building of police barracks.
- The November receipts of the Fortaleza [Ceará] custom house were 142,407\$82.
- The November receipts of the Parahyba custom house amounted to 143,476\$765.
- The São Paulo electric light establishment was formally inaugurated on the 5th inst.
- The *Cerco*, of Campinas, says that the average annual death rate in that city is from 41 to 42 per thousand.
- Barão de Santa Helena was chosen senator from Minas Geraes on the 10th inst., to succeed the late Barão de Leopoldina.
- The November receipts of the S. Paulo post-office were 12,472\$110 for the city and 33,762\$290 for the rest of the province. In the same month of last year the receipts were 12,133\$869 and 29,028\$850 respectively.
- A police soldier in Garrapa, Pará, recently attempted to recruit a laborer against his will, and was killed by the *malato* on the spot. Forced recruiting is not altogether popular on the Amazon.
- A company has been organized in Theresia, Piahy, for the establishment of a small cotton factory there. The capital was all subscribed in the place.
- The province of Minas has authorized the payment of 47,770\$319 to the Associação Promotora de Imigração for the expenses incurred in the construction of the *Jalá de Fôra Aspadaria*.
- There were 9,756 immigrant arrivals at the port of Santos during the month of November, of which 8,699 were Italians, 448 Spaniards, 420 Portuguese, and the rest of diverse nationalities.
- The S. Paulo immigration society has determined to import 2,000 female servants for domestic service. If the society is not careful, it will be responsible for some very serious abuses!
- A man in Victoria, Espírito Santo, has presented the president of the province with the model of a wind-mill for pumping water and moving a screw, which he has invented. Who was it that took Holland?
- A planter of Guaratinguetá, S. Paulo, discovered that a daughter had been seduced by one of his employees. He secured the criminal and institutionalized him for further amorous experiences, just as Heloise's uncle did Alahard.
- The province of Amazonas postoffice yielded 2,105\$957 in the month of October. That four-hundredth part of a man is not a very lively letter-writer. And perhaps the fractional man accounts for the receipt of that impossible sum of 57 reis.
- The Bishop of Pará has been made a nobleman with the title of Conde de Belém. Things have changed somewhat since João Alfredo had this same bishop clapped into jail for opposing the government.
- A police *subdelegado* at Santa Theresia, Espírito Santo, recently shot at a German colonist to compel the said colonist to manifest a sufficient amount of respect for him. A decided encouragement for immigration, surely!
- The November receipts of the Victoria (Espírito Santo) custom house amounted to 36,625\$180, against 32,537\$882 in the same month of last year. The *mesa de rendas* receipts for the same month were 18,623\$049.

—A new German paper, called the *Freie Presse*, made its appearance in São Paulo on the 11th inst. Our new contemporary will accept our compliments and best wishes for a long and successful career.

—The Rio de Janeiro provincial budget estimates the 1889 receipts at 4,729,813\$388, of which nearly one half is to come from the provincial export tax [4%] on coffee. The expenditures are estimated at the same total.

—There were 255 burials in the São Paulo public cemetery during the month of November. On the basis of a population of 55,000 this shows an average of 56 per 1,000 per annum. Even allowing a population of 60,000 the rate is nearly 52.

—A telegram published here on the 9th says that on the evening of the 7th the hardware establishment of Emilio Martins & Co. at Pará was entirely destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at 400,000\$. How much the insurance was is not clear.

—The *Gazeta da Tarde*, of Ceará, relates that some poor famishing people in Guaynha ate the flesh of an ox which had died from some unknown cause. Cases of carfume immediately resulted, from which three had died and ten were gravely ill at latest advices.

—The November revenue receipts at Pernambuco were: custom house 1,164,700\$647; *recebido de* 43,064\$128; *recebido de* 54,086\$238. This shows a decrease for the custom house, and an increase for the two *recebidos* over the November receipts of last year.

—Sr. Henrique Raffard has been employed by the minister of agriculture to direct the immigration service of the province of Rio de Janeiro. If Sr. Raffard does not lower John Chinaman his lot is not a very desirable one; hardly less agreeable than central sugar factories.

—On the 4th inst. at Campinas a company to be known as "Industrial Ceramica Paulista," was inaugurated. The capital is 200,000\$, and its purposes are, we presume, to make bricks and tiles, and "Paulista Ceramica fabril" is certainly more euphonious than "brick and tile factory."

—The Bananal assassin, Antonio José Nogueira, who shot two men from his own window some months ago, died in the S. Paulo quartel on the 6th inst. from congestion of the brain. He was to have started for Bananal that day for trial. His son-in-law and accomplice, Macedo, is still at large.

—The *Blatiro Mercantil* is calling attention to the bad system of instruction in the "curso annexo" in São Paulo, where in a recent examination 50 per cent. of the students were "conditional" in Portuguese. Perhaps the laws have been giving too much attention to "republicanism" and "positivism."

—Complaints are now coming from São Paulo to the effect that the planters are "stealing" each other's colonists. A man spends a considerable sum of money to get colonists, and then, just as they are getting settled down to work, a neighbor sneaks in and offers them better pay to come to him.

—The parish priest of Monte Santo, province of Minas Geraes, went to the circus on the evening of the 25th inst. When he returned home he found his servant murdered, and 600\$ in money had disappeared. A suspected party was arrested, and the people were, with difficulty, prevented from lynching him.

—The removal of the Rio de Janeiro provincial capital from Niteroi to Campos is now agitating the legislative mind on the other side of the bay. It would be a good thing for the province if the removal were made, for the provincial officials would not be able to live in Rio, in the neglect of their official duties.

—The official returns give the November receipts of the Santos custom house as 1,246,859\$307, of which 651,672\$861 were from import duties and 595,607\$890 from export duties. This total includes the receipts of the postoffice, municipal taxes, stamp taxes, etc. The receipts of the provincial *mesa de rendas* amounted to 252,546\$782, of which 233,964\$475 were from provincial export duties on coffee.

—The president of the province of Rio de Janeiro has, according to the *Diário do Commercio* of the 7th, authorized the payment of 40,000\$ to Sr. Favilla Nunes for the organizing of statistics of the province. It is only a few months ago that the province paid a considerable sum to some other statistician to get up an immigrants' guide. The province is so rich, however, that 40,000 more or less will have no effect on its finances.

—A recent statistical table compiled from the predial tax sheets shows that the city of Santos has a total of 2,466 buildings, of which 1,531 are of one story, 668 of a story-and-a-half, 216 of two stories, and 41 of three stories. The rental value of these buildings is 1,741,638\$000, on which the predial tax amounts to 66,660\$825. There are also 75 buildings under construction. At a rough estimate, this indicates a population of about 20,000.

—The *Diário de Notícias*, of Bahia, of the 3rd inst., relates that on the evening of the 1st three cables of the army created a serious disturbance in some streets of that city, drawing their swords, beating the people and insulting every one whom they met. They even forced their way into private houses. Several people were wounded, and much damage was done. Of course no arrests were made, and no one dared to resist the amusements of these "privileged" youngsters!

## RAILROAD NOTES

—The new tramway in Ouro Preto began regular service on the 1st inst.

—It is supposed that work will be commenced on the São Paulo railway Minas Geraes, by about the middle of January next.

—The new station of the S. Paulo railway at Jundiaí is almost completed. Mr. Speers has not sent all his money away at 27 and over?

—The November traffic receipts of the Leopoldina railway were 443,355\$520, of which 80,870\$250 from passengers and 327,126\$390 from goods. Expenses are not given.

—The minister of agriculture has instructed the fiscal engineer to study some scheme for joint traffic between the Bahia Central railway and the steamers plying between Bahia and Cachoeira.

—A bill has just been passed by the Rio de Janeiro provincial assembly and sanctioned by the president of the province, authorizing the payment of the physician and druggist who rendered services on the occasion of an accident on the Catagolha line on December 31, 1887.

—Decree No. 10,101 dated on the 1st inst. authorizes the Minas and Rio railway to build a branch line through Caminhaçu to Campanha, and another to the Lamary watering place. An interest guarantee of 6 per cent. per annum is granted on 30,000\$ per kilometer for 30 years.

—An excursion made up of São Paulo clerks and business men, now unimpeded from shopkeeping on Sundays and saint's days, visited Rio on the 5th and 6th inst. They left São Paulo at 10 a. m. by special train on the 7th. It is to be hoped that these excursions will be liberally encouraged, for they yield many benefits to the railways.

—Decrees dated on the 1st inst. grant the Bahia Central railway and Nicolau Vergueiro & Co. Cacy permission to survey, at their own expense, the first the extensions to the Odeio district and to Rio das Contas, and the second the proposed Caxias and Cajazeiras line in the province of Maranhão. Upon the approval of the surveys will depend the interest guarantee.

—It is announced that from the 1st proximo the Rio de Janeiro and Northern railway will run an express train from S. Francisco Xavier to Petropolis and another *vice-versa*. We presume this means a suppression of passenger traffic by water, and—happy thought—perhaps that of the privileged *dias*, or gratis amusements of every body else from Rio to Mauá.

—One of the government provisions in help matters in the province of Ceará is the construction of the Sobral railway extension. The *Diário Official* of the 8th publishes the salaries of the staff for the execution of this extension, and it amounts to 65,520\$ per annum. This is a peculiar manner of helping Ceará, but agreeable, no doubt, to the engineers employed.

—The shareholders of the late Principe do Grão Pará railway declared on the 4th inst. that fully paid shares would receive 200\$, or par, and the subsidiary shares 35\$35 each. Any sum over that necessary but these payments will be divided in the same proportion. As those who might to know have been buying fully paid shares at about 220\$, it seems pretty safe to suppose that there will be a balance for division.

## RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—There were 1,720 passenger arrivals and 496 departures at Montevideo during the month of October.

—Complaints have been made at Buenos Aires against a captain of one of the French transatlantic steamers for cruelty and bad treatment toward emigrants, and for refusing to permit some of them to land at Montevideo.

—A fight recently occurred at a petty municipal election in Lomas de Zamora, near Buenos Aires, in which 5 men were killed and 14 wounded. Self government is still a very serious matter in the Argentine Republic.

—Montevideo is getting to be a very good place to avoid. A short time since an English shipmaster was arrested for not reporting a sailing affray on board, and at last accounts was in the penitentiary awaiting the judge's decision. An immediate ought to be called upon to settle cases of this character.

—Our chief of police has just issued a decidedly objectionable official obliging all hotel and lodging house keepers to give to the police a daily list of their lodgers, with their name, profession, etc. Such a proceeding is at once inquisitorial, and, to some and useless. —*Montevideo Express*.

—Mr. B. Cayman for himself and as the representative of the engineer Mr. James Clementson has contracted for the construction of the railway from Montevideo to Colonia, 100 kilometers, with the National Company of Credit and Public Works. —*River Plate Times*, Montevideo, Nov. 29.

—It is announced that the first section of the Buenos Aires port works will be completed this month. The greatest activity now prevails all the departments of this great work.

—A quarantine of twelve days against Rio has been adopted in Buenos Aires. Why should not Commissioner Amalhe Figueira bring this matter of quarantines before the international judicial congress at Montevideo—if that body can be induced to hold a few more sessions?

—An American exchange says that a well-known horse dealer in the United States proposes to charter a ship and take a large number of trotting horses, both stallions and mares, down to Buenos Aires sometime during the ensuing winter (Dec. to March). He will first give exhibition races and then the horses are to be put up for sale at auction.

## COFFEE NOTES

—Private advices as to the future coffee crop along the Mogiana line, São Paulo, are to the effect that the blossoming is abundant and the prospects are good for the coming crop.

—The Santos office shipments last month amounted to 206,585 bags, according to the *Diário de Santos*, of which 50,925 went to Germany, 46,340 to Belgium, 45,642 to France, 41,216 to the United States, 19,927 to the Mediterranean, 2,501 to England and 54 coastwise.

—“A golden shower,” says the *Gazeta do Norte* ( Ceará) of November 15th, was that which fell yesterday in the Baía de Guanabara. From these we are cheerfully informed that the great part of the coffee crop is safe.”—*Diário Oficial*, Dec. 1. It is refreshing to see a coffee note that does not mention the reduction of 33 1/3 per cent. in the crop.

—The output of the coffee crop of Ceará for the season 1888-89 is estimated at 5,180 tons, the average annual exports for the last ten years having been 4,500 tons. The commission of Ceará writes: “The total area of coffee plantations, European and native, is 80,389 acres, of which 50,124 acres are actually planted. Of this area, 32,144 acres are held by Europeans, and forest owners have been furnished for the bulk of these estates. The native holdings comprise 25,083, for the greater portion of which no returns are obtainable. The present harvest has been good, as far as practically, on the returns furnished, and for the rest a rough estimate has been framed, giving a total of 5,180 tons.”—*Pioneer*.

## LOCAL NOTES

—The Jockey Club claims to have paid out 188,000\$ in prizes during the past season.

—The British ship-of-war *Wild Swan* arrived in port from Montevideo on the 8th inst., en route for England.

—It is proposed to establish an open market at Penha, where all sorts of animals, grains, etc., will be exposed for sale.

—A local paper on the 6th asks for government help in Niterói, where it is said yellow fever and small-pox are epidemic.

—A local colleague says there is *grêve* in the Sultan's kitchen. Where would he like the gravy to be, if not in the kitchen?

—Between January 1st and November 30th there were received in this city 1,700,232 sovereigns, 1,887,600\$ worth of bar silver, and 323,400\$ worth of silver coin.

—A census in Brazil is useless. A statistician in his cabinet has decided that the population of the empire is 14,002,335 souls, and that settles it.

—Thieves broke into a house in the Rua Gonçalves Dias recently and secured 38500. This sort of work will not suffice to meet the wear and tear on the tools used.

—There is a milkshymer here who rejoices in the name of Agénor de Campos Mello Vidal Leite Ribeiro. How would the officer of the watch order the youngster to the mast-head?

—It required 1512 pages of the *Diário Oficial* of the 4th inst. to publish the Brazilian laws of the Normal school. They are comprehensive to the highest degree—and equally useless.

—Our meteorological service is simply splendid. On the 7th inst. the *Diário Oficial* gives us a statement of what was going on in a meteorological way on November 30th. We are not crying; we merely notice a fact.

—The total number of deaths in this city in November, according to the *Revista do Sul*, was 991, giving an average of 33 per day, which shows an average of about 36 per 1,000 per annum. There were 41 deaths from yellow fever, and 80 from all other fevers.

—Two doctors and a police delegate visited the victim of the duel mentioned in our last. The first professionals declare the damage done insignificant; what the last is going to do will be known later on. A touching feature was the visit paid by the victor to the wounded hero.

—Hope long deferred. The great 300,000\$ lottery has been transferred to June 8th next.

—The opening of the Penha market fair is announced for January 6th. Special trains will be run on the Rio and Northern line to accommodate the public.

—An opera “trust” is in process of organization here. The dilettanti can join and have their opera, pure as imported, and no charges made. Pure philanthropy right straight through.

—Sr. Manoel Dias da Cruz, a well-known lumber dealer here, has been made Barão da Saúde (Lord of Health), apparently because his saw-mills are established in the street of the same name.

—Sr. Lopes Trovão, the republican tribune, was delivered of his long threatened stump speech on Sunday, the 9th inst. It took a long time, but the local press says it was not a “ridiculous mess.”

—Perhaps there is some hope for them after all! Councilors Paulino de Souza and Belisário de Souza are said to have made a trip to S. Paulo to examine into the workings of colonization there.

—Dr. Benjamin Antonio da Rocha Faria has been appointed inspector-general of public hygiene for this city. Let us hope that some of the abuses which infect this department will now be reformed.

—The *Gazeta de Notícias* of the 12th hears that a congress of socialists is to be organized in this city, and that already the number of members is considerable. The future of Brazil improves daily.

—On the 11th there was a duel at Buenos Aires between the secretary of the President and an editor. Seven shots were exchanged without damage, when the police, tired of waiting for gun, interfered and arrested the whole “bluffing.”

—The adjutant-general of the army characterizes the interference of a cadet and 6 soldiers when a policeman was trying to stop a disgraceful street quarrel, as an “incident of the slightest proportions.”

—We have received the first numbers of the *Diário do Commercio*, and heartily desire all success to our new colleague. The journal is well directed, and its platform comprehensive and well deserving of public support.

—In firing the salute on the 2nd inst. at Fort Villegagnon a sailor had his right hand blown off. There are two doctors in the fort, but they have no means of treating such accidents, and the unfortunate sailor had to be sent to the hospital in the city to have his hand amputated.

—Decree No. 10,100 dated on the 1st December and published in the *Diário Oficial* of the 6th, gives the conditions under which new central sugar factories may obtain interest guarantees. The amount of capital disposable is 21,700,000\$, quite enough to attract attention.

—Curious coincidence. Neither D. Pedro II of Portugal, nor his descendant, D. Pedro II of Brazil, desired to have statues erected for their glory during their lives. City councillors have on such bashfulness about calling streets after themselves, no ministers giving their names to men-of-war.

—Visconde de Figueiredo, president of the Banco Internacional, left this city on the 10th on the northern ports steamer *Maranhão*. He will visit Bahia and Pernambuco, and thence go on to Europe, where, it is said, important financial operations are to be treated, all tending to attract capital for various enterprises in Brazil.

—The exhibition of the articles destined for the 1889 Paris exposition was inaugurated by the Emperor on the 10th inst. The display of agricultural produce is described as very meagre, and the organizers of the affair, if represented by their president, have commenced explaining that it does not represent the resources of the empire at the outset.

—Here is a sample of Brazilian journalism: “According to a Lisbon journal the prior Coster do Transmar was condemned to death in 1748, for having 299 children, of these 132 were had of 29 girls, 28 of 5 sisters, 6 of 6 sisters-in-law, 28 of 2 slaves, 3 by an aunt and 2 by his own mother. D. João V. pardoned the criminal.”—*Avulsões*, Dec. 4th.

—If our streets are to be filled with vagabonds and professors of roistering clerks on Sundays, who persist in attacking open business houses and creating disorder, perhaps it will be better to reopen the shops and keep these young scamps at work. If they do not know how to properly use their liberty, then let them go without it for a little while longer.

—On the 7th the minister of agriculture orders the municipal chamber to answer, with urgency, a demand of the City Improvements Company that it be allowed to re-pave and reconstruct such streets as are opened for drains. This has been one of the crying shames of Rio for years, the chamber will neither close up the drains itself, nor allow the sewerage company to do so.

—The *Diário do Commercio* of the 9th says that some 40 Italian immigrants invaded the free landing house here on the preceding night and made a terrible row. What had become of the over-worked director general of immigration? The 8th was a holiday, to be sure, and perhaps director and sub-directors were at Petropolis, where the government inspector-general of railways passes his time.

—We cannot find *urrah* in our dictionaries. What is it any way?

—Her Majesty the Empress has ordered a Brazilian flag to cost 1,000\$, which is destined to the groto of Our Lady of Loores. Without any desire to criticize religious feelings, it still appears to us that there are establishments in Rio far more worthy of the money than the groto.

—If the reports published on the 6th inst. are correct, the 17th battalion came away from S. Paulo so quickly that uniforms and even shoes were left behind. This promptness may mean discipline on the part of the rank and file, but is a severe censure on the officers of the “bravo” battalion.

—Prince Olaf of Africa, who is also Ensign Galvão of the Brazilian army, got himself up with feathers and other African ornaments on the 2nd inst., and went to show off near the Palace, where the Emperor was holding his reception. The prince's costume shocked some one, for he was arrested next day by order of the adjutant-general.

—The shareholders of the Bank of Brazil understand their own interests better than outsiders; and their election of Barão de Cotegipe as president of the bank implies that the bank rejects emancipation and means idleness. If the Barão has served as a finance minister on more than one occasion, his abilities as a banker are as yet unknown. It is none of our business; let the shareholders constitute their bank a refuge for militant statesmen, and all be happy together!

—The local papers had their ignorance as to military matters clearly demonstrated by the report of Brig. Gen. Oliveira published in the *Diário Oficial* of the 8th. The 17th battalion (the São Paulo heroes) were encamped in a marshy place to insure them for such exercises in actual warfare, as to the sanitary condition, the majority of the privates suffer from a disease that must have been brought from S. Paulo.

—It is expected that the closing ceremonies of the international congress at Montevideo will begin on the 20th inst. The Brazilian commissioner, Deputy Amalhe Figueira, who left here on the 6th inst., will arrive just in time to take part in these exercises. Had it not been for the necessity of imperial confidence and patronage, it would have been better, perhaps, to have let the congress adjourn without a Brazilian representative.

—The utter uselessness of our passport system was further proved on the 10th inst. A servant, employed, of a circus man here gathered in £290, more or less, of his employer's money, embarked on the *Esquadrão* without the formalities of ticket or passport and would have been well on his way to the “equitable” of the civilized world, had not a detective spotted him and brought him ashore. It is evident that passports are merely an annoyance to honest people, and no protection against the “shipping” of thieves.

—The Havas Agency will have it that the message sent to Congress at Washington recently was from President-elect Harrison. And the local papers here published the dispatches to that effect without a comment! If we were sure that the information could be made to stick, we would take pains to state that the message was from President Cleland, and that President-elect Harrison does not take charge of the government until March 4th next—but we won't say anything about it! Facts slip off some people like water from a duck's back.

—On the 31st Oct. of this year in the audience of the *juiz das filias* of the national finance, Gen. Miguel dos Santos proposed a suit against the Treasury, marking ten days for the counterplea. On the 15th Nov. the documents were sent in the attorney of the *filias*, who had ten days for replying, and this not having been done up to yesterday, the General through his lawyer asked for a writ of collection under the law, and the judge acceded to this yesterday also. This question, which has run for 16 years, refers to a society for colonization which the General established here, and the claim amounts to nearly 9,000,000\$ to-day.”—*Gazeta de Notícias*, Dec. 5th.

—The Brazilian statistician, Sr. Faria Nunes, is said to have recently published a valuable work, by figuring on it he has succeeded, it is said, in producing from this unknown quantity a population for Brazil of 14,002,335, which shows a carefulness in statistics worthy of all praise. Princes shine under the microscope, as to population, for example, Amazonas has only .04 part of a man for a square kilometre of territory. What becomes of the remaining .96 of this unhappy son of the great father district is not explained. The four-hundredth part of a man can have little value; even if it marries an equivalent amount of an Amazonian lady, the result is only .08, and what percentage will the children represent? Statistics of this character are enough to give gray hairs to a sincochee.

—On the afternoon of the 9th six houses were destroyed by fire in the Rua Senador Nalmeida, Villa Isabel. The conflagration was commenced by setting fire to a naps' nest in one of the houses which caused the almost instantaneous igniting of the building and those adjoining. Here is another proof of the criminal manner in which houses are being built in Rio. Of the most ordinary material and in long rows under one roof, the danger is immense. In the present case there were no fire-ladders, but had the fire commenced at night the case might have been different. There was a scarcity of water when the fire department arrived, to further help matters. Some one must be to blame for the manner in which dwelling houses are now being built.

—Having pretty well exhausted the supply of native-born undecorated persons, the government is now actively decorating all the French nation.

—The *Gazeta da Tarde* is about to begin the publication of a serial entitled “Justiça Humana.” The scene will of course be laid in some foreign country.

—A benefactor of Petropolis is recently dead. He was Sr. Court, the proprietor of the baths, and if cleanliness, etc., you know, then he must be considered a benefactor.

—That poor old legion in Washington seems a veritable *espantoso* to Brazilian diplomats. It is not surprising for American interests in Brazil may be considered nil, and those of Brazil in the United States rather less.

—It has been suggested to us that Latin-American duels might be fought with 4 ounce pebbles; each man to be furnished with six, and the first hit to count something like the lawn tennis score, with increase, or decrease, until somebody's nose bleeds.

—The premier Senator João Alfredo Correia de Oliveira, celebrated his birth-day on the 12th inst., and was visited by many friends and admirers. Among the visitors was an association of freedmen, who have adopted the very far from euphonious name of the *Guarda Negra* (literally Black Guard). The idea of the freedmen is clear enough, but its execution is not happy.

—There seems to be a belief among some of our Brazilian friends that the emancipation act of last May has been one of the causes contributing to the recent election of the republican candidate in the United States. It may be perfectly correct, but we really can not see the relationship. And more than that, our American exchanges have thus far left us willy nilly in the dark on that point.

—The *Gazeta da Tarde* charges that the municipal council has authorized a contract for the completion of the quays along the Praia do Flamengo at the rate of seven hundred and eighty odd milreis per metre, when proposals have been made for the same work for less than three hundred. The contract is to be made with the widow of the former contractor, who went into bankruptcy.

—The government is said to have sent orders to the various Brazilian legations in Europe to consider Barão de Teffé a species of peripatetic military attaché to each and every legation so long as the Barão goes jolting around Europe. The idea is not so bad. Why have fixed military attachés when a superior genius is ready to spend a part of his time at any and every capital in Europe? The difference in expense cannot be startling.

—The Gabinete Português de Leitura will formally inaugurate their elegant new library building on Rua Luz de Camões to-day, the 15th, at 7 o'clock in the evening. The imperial family is expected to be present. The society is to be congratulated on the completion of their new edifice, which not only reflects great credit upon their enterprise and public spirit, but is an honor to the city itself. We are under many obligations for the invitation sent us.

—Carlos Mesquita is a musical professor at the Conservatory here. He wrote an opera, took it to Europe (on leave of absence, naturally), offered it to the director of a Brazilian theatre, and learned that it could be presented in 1890 only. Therefore Carlos comes back to Rio to occupy his chair and draw his pay for another year, when he will, no doubt, again obtain leave to visit Europe and knock all the concert out of its diletanti with his opera.

—On the morning of the 10th, at about half past four o'clock, three burglars entered the Banco Frecial, using false keys, and were seen coming out. One, said to be a Frenchman, was captured; the others escaped. It is to be hoped that the police will now be able to trace the perpetrators of the innumerable burglaries recently committed here. A comic point is that the “knights” should have assaulted the most notoriously impudicous establishment of its kind in Rio!

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

*Questões Agrícolas*, by Dr. Oscar Varady. Rio de Janeiro: Typ. Caricão, 1888. A republication of a speech on colonization, diversity of products and Chinese immigration made in the provincial assembly of Rio de Janeiro 25th October 1888.

*Sermões de João Wesley*, reprinted from the *Expositor Cristão*. S. Paulo: Typ. King, 1888. A republication of the translations of Wesley's sermons which have been appearing for sometime past in the above mentioned periodical.

*O Separatismo e a Actualidade*, by Dr. Martin Francisco. S. Paulo: Typ. *Diário Popular*, 1888. The republication of a discourse by S. Paulo's champion of secession on the occasion of an abolition convention in that province. The speaker believes that S. Paulo is prepared to take her position in the world as a nationality. The watchword must therefore be “immediate and unconditional separation.”

*Lição de Infância*, by M. Paulino de Assumpção. Rio de Janeiro: Imprensa Mont'Alverne, 1888. A second edition of a primary reader, organized on a “new method,” and approved by the council of Pernambuco. According to the most modern methods of primary teaching, the “new method” above mentioned is very much behind the times. It is simply a new arrangement of the old reading lessons, and supposes an advancement rapid enough to begin with the alphabet and end with poems, etc., within a space of 60 pages. The book is very badly printed and is bound in paper—perhaps because of the duties levied on paper and binder's stock.



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